

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-50 are currently pending. Claims 26, 37, 49, and 50 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 26, 33-35, 37-43, and 47-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding questions of definiteness; Claims 49 and 50 were objected to as being of improper dependent form; Claim 50 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement;² the Drawings were objected to as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims; Claims 27-32, 36, 45, and 46 were allowed; and the specification was objected to regarding the phrase “in the region.”

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 27-32, 36, 45, and 46.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 26, 33-35, 37-43, and 47-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 26 has been clarified to read “synchronized in a range below 100ms” and “buffering in a range of approximately 1 to 5 sec.” Claim 37 has been amended in an analogous manner. Further, Claim 50 has been amended to clarify the functions of the elements included in the reproduction unit.

For example, with respect to Claim 26, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill would recognize that “synchronizing reproduction using the at least two reproduction units, wherein the reproduction units are synchronized in the region below 100 ms” means the reproduction timelag between the two reproduction units is *in the range* below

¹ See, e.g., page 15, lines 8-22 of the originally filed specification; also see Claim 26.

² It is noted that the Office Action appears to have inadvertently identified Claim 49, rather than Claim 50, for reciting the claimed means.

100 ms, i.e., is smaller than 100 ms. More specifically, it means that the units, as concerns the playback timing of the units, are synchronized to 100 ms or less. That is, the playback time of the units does not diverge by more than 100 ms. The same applies to the buffering, the amount of buffering must be *in the range* of 1 to 5 seconds. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Accordingly, the rejections of Claims 26, 33-35, 37-43, and 47-50 are believed to have been overcome.

Regarding the objections to Claims 49 and 50 as being of improper dependent form, Claims 49 and 50 have been rewritten in independent form, as required by the Office Action. Accordingly, the objections to Claims 49 and 50 are believed to have been overcome.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the Office Action asserts that there is no written support for either the claimed “means for at least indirectly outputting data” or “means for automatically integrating the unit into the network.”³ Initially, it is noted that the originally filed specification discloses, *inter alia*, that a non-limiting example of means for at least indirectly outputting analog or digital data is a loudspeaker,⁴ and that “[t]he memory of such a reproduction unit contains a permanently programmed data processing program for carrying out this method, and this program is activated automatically after the power supply is turned on, with the reproduction unit particularly preferably having means for automatically integrating the unit into the network.”⁵

Further, Claim 50 has been amended to no longer invoke interpretation under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. In particular, Claim 50 has been amended to recite an output unit to at least indirectly output the data streams or data packets and that the central computer unit is configured to automatically integrate the reproduction unit into the network, rather

³ See Office Action dated June 19, 2009, pages 3 and 4.

⁴ See, e.g., page 15, lines 14-16 of the originally filed specification.

⁵ See, e.g., page 15, lines 20-22 of the originally filed specification.

than the previously recited “means for at least indirectly outputting data” and “means for automatically integrating the unit into the network.” Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the Drawings, Fig. 1 has been amended to illustrate loudspeaker 13, which corresponds to a non-limiting example of the output unit, as discussed above. Further, as noted above, Claim 50 has been amended to clarify that the previously recited central computer unit is configured to automatically integrate the reproduction unit into the network. Accordingly, the objections to the Drawings are believed to have been overcome.

Regarding the objection to the specification, specification has been amended to clarify the disclosed “region” as corresponding to a “range.” As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the disclosed region as corresponding to a range. Thus, no new matter has been added. Accordingly, the objection to the specification is believed to have been overcome.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

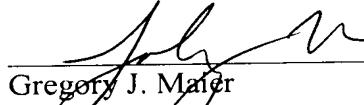
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